

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2418

LIMDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, PDIP, ECIN, DA
SUBJ: ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. AT APRIL 7-8 EUROPEAN COUNSEL
MEETING IN COPENHAGEN

1. THE PAUL LEWIS STORY OUT OF COPENHAGEN REPORTING ON THE APRIL 7-8 EUROPEAN SUMMIT MEETING MIGHT BE SEEN AS EUROPEAN CRITICISM OF THE U.S. AND LEAD ONE TO BELIEVE THAT THE MEETING HERE HAD AN ANTI-AMERICAN FLAVOR. I ASKED SOME OF THOSE CLOSER TO THE MEETING THAN I WHETHER THIS WAS ALSO THEIR IMPRESSION. SPECIFICALLY, I TALKED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER, HENNING GOTTLIEB, AND FRG AMBASSADOR HARALD HOFMANN. PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT TO COPENHAGEN, THE LATTER WAS FRG FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN AND IS CLOSE TO FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

2. GOTTLIEB SAID THAT ATMOSPHERE WAS NOT AT ALL ANTI-AMERICAN AND THAT THIS CERTAINLY REFLECTED THE VIEW OF THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER, WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING. GOTTLIEB CONTINUED THAT THOSE WHO WISH TO MAGNIFY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND EC MEMBERS HAD PERHAPS MISINTERPRETED THE PRIVATE DISCUSSION AMONG THE CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT WHERE THE MONETARY REFORMS WERE DISCUSSED. APPARENTLY, MR. JENKINS SUGGESTED THAT MORE
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STABILITY AMONG THE CURRENCIES OF THE EC MEMBER STATES WOULD STRENGTHEN THEIR ABILITY TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY IN EXCHANGE RATE POLICY WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, NOTABLY THE U.S. HOWEVER, THIS TYPE OF STATEMENT WAS NOT CONFRONTATIONAL, BUT MERELY PART OF A EUROPEAN EFFORT TO FIND WAYS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

3. IN THE SAME VEIN, A WEST GERMAN SOURCE IN COPENHAGEN HAD INDICATED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT STILL LOOKS CHIEFLY TO A MORE DETERMINED AMERICAN ACTION TO SHORE UP THE DOLLAR - THROUGH STRENGTHENED MONEY SUPPLY POLICIES AND CURTAILMENT OF ENERGY IMPORTS - AS THE POST IMMEDIATELY RELEVANT ANSWER TO THE EC'S MONETARY DIFFICULTIES. GOTTLIEB POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS A WELL-KNOWN POSITION THAT SIMPLY REFLECTS THE INTER-DEPENDENCE OF THE AMERICAN AND EC ECONOMIES.

4. MY GERMAN COLLEAGUE, WHO FROM HIS PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT KNEW MANY OF THE NEWSPAPER PEOPLE WHO CAME TO COPENHAGEN, SAID THAT REPORTERS HAD BELEAGUED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S HOTEL AND DESIGNED THEIR QUESTIONS EXPRESSLY TO EMPHASIZE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND GERMAN POLICIES. AMBASSADOR HOFMANN SAID THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT REPEATEDLY HAD TO CORRECT JOURNALISTS WHO TRIED TO EXAGGERATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE EC. HOFMANN THUS THOUGHT SOME JOURNALISTS WERE DETERMINED TO REPORT STORY AS THEY WANTED TO SEE IT, RATHER THAN ACCURATELY REFLECTING WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN COPENHAGEN.

5. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT ON APRIL 14 WITH THE DANISH MINISTER OF FINANCE, PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, AND WILL TRY TO GAIN HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT.
DEAN

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